

R E M A R K S

Section headings have been added to the specification and the title has been amended.

Claims 23-35 have been amended and claims 44-46 have been added. Support for the amendment to claim 23 is found on page 2, lines 20-23. The new claims are directed to the subject matter of elected Group I. Consideration of the amended and new claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-35 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. The amended claims are believed to be proper as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 23-35 were rejected as anticipated by ROCKNEY et al. 5,660,899. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 23 provides, among other features, that the substrate is elastically deformable from a relaxed configuration and that the foil contacts an outside surface of the substrate only intermittently so as to form pleats in the foil when the substrate is the relaxed configuration.

ROCKNEY et al. do not disclose or suggest a foil cover that contacts an outside surface of the substrate only intermittently so as to form pleats in the foil when the substrate is the relaxed configuration. The foil in ROCKNEY et al. is in contact with the substrate over the entire surface of the substrate. Further, the substrate in ROCKNEY et al. is

flexible, but is not elastically deformable. That is, the sleeving can bend, but does not elastically deform (an elastic material recovers after deformation). Accordingly, the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102.

New claim 45 is directed to an embodiment in which an elastically deformable substrate has an outside surface with a first shape, and a pleated foil has a second shape different than the first shape, where the foil is fixed to the outside surface of the substrate only where the first shape and the second shape meet each other. Again, support is found at page 2, lines 20-23.

ROCKNEY et al. do not disclose or suggest the two different shapes claimed, where the foil is fixed to the substrate only where the two shapes meet. Accordingly, the new claims are believed to avoid the rejection of record.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The **title** has been changed throughout, declaration excepted, to the following:

[A THERMAL PROTECTION SHEATH AND ITS FABRICATION
METHOD]

--THERMAL PROTECTION SHEATH AND ITS FABRICATION
METHOD--

Claim 23 has been amended as follows.

--23. (amended) A thermal protection sheath comprising:
[including] a substrate [(10)] and a reflective foil [(20)] fixed to the substrate [(10, 14)],
the substrate [(10, 14)] being elastically deformable from a relaxed configuration,

[characterized in that] wherein the foil contacts an outside surface of the substrate only intermittently so as to form pleats in the foil when the substrate is [(20) is pleated on the substrate (10, 14)] in said relaxed configuration[and the pleats in the foil (20) are irregularly shaped and oriented].--

Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

--24. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate [(10, 14)] has an outside surface [(11)] provided with openings [(12)] and the foil [(20)] is pleated in line with said openings [(12)].--

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

--25. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 24, [characterized in that] wherein the foil [(20)] is pleated inside the openings [(12)].--

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

--26. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the pleats in the foil [(20) are adapted to] form reserves of air [(15)].--

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

--27. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate [(10)] is made of textile and includes openings [(12)] between textile threads [(13)] and the foil [(20)] is pleated in line with said openings [(12)].--

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

--28. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 27, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate [(10) is formed of] comprises braided or knitted threads (13).--

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

--29. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 28, [characterized in that] wherein the reflective foil [(20)] is pleated between the braided or knitted threads [(13)].--

Claim 30 has been amended as follows:

--30. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate is a corrugated plastics material tube [(14)].--

Claim 31 has been amended as follows:

--31. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 30, [characterized in that] wherein the corrugated plastics material tube [(14)] is slit longitudinally.--

Claim 32 has been amended as follows:

--32. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 30, [characterized in that] wherein the foil [(20)] is pleated inside annular recesses [(12)] of the corrugated tube [(14)].--

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

--33. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate [(10, 14)] is tubular.--

Claim 34 has been amended as follows:

--34. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the substrate [(10, 14)] can be stretched] is elastically stretchable in the longitudinal and/or radial direction.--

Claim 35 has been amended as follows:

--35. (amended) [A] The protection sheath according to
claim 23, [characterized in that] wherein the reflective foil
[(20)] is woven from aluminized glass fibers.--